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STATUS REPORT  
OF THE  
TASK FORCE SOUTHEAST ASIA

COVERT ANNEX - VIETNAM  
(25 July - 7 August)

I. SOUTH VIETNAM

A. Counterinsurgency Programs

1. Citizens Irregular Defense Groups (CIDG's)

a. The following developments in the Fighting Fathers program in the delta area are worthy of noting:

(1) On 1 August an alleged company-size Vietnamese Communist unit attacked the Binh Hung area. The attackers were driven off by 60 mm and 81 mm mortar fire. [REDACTED] estimated that 30-40 VC were killed or wounded, but no VC corpses were left on the battle field.

(2) Since the arrival of the Chinese Nationalist training team in April 1962, a total of 597 personnel have been trained in the Binh Hung complex. The training programs have included eight weeks of basic training, seven weeks of advanced, five weeks of heavy weapons, two weeks of UDT, eight weeks of medical and eight weeks of psychological warfare training.

b. In the Rhade Buon Enao complex, the total number of villagers trained is 4,571; weapons issued, 5,005; and 112 villages organized; strike force strength, 776.

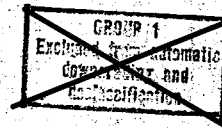
c. On 24 and 26 July Buon Trap Mewal (B. Trap) in the Buon Enao complex was attacked by two companies of VC. The village defenders were driven out after the first attack when their ammunition became exhausted. After receiving a resupply of ammunition and strike force reinforcement, the villagers returned the same day and drove out the VC. (For further details please see TDCS-3/518,485.)

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A fragmentary report received by [REDACTED] indicates that Buon Trap Mewal was under attack again by 6 August. No further details are available at this time.

d. On 24 July a Special Forces "A" team completed the construction of a Buon Enao sub-base located at Buon Ea Khit. Since the initiation of a 12-day training cycle begun on 28 June, a total of 438 villagers have been trained. Buon Ea Khit now comprises 28 armed villages with nine more in process of being organized. Medical personnel at the sub-base treated 1,478 Rhade in the first 25 days of operation.

e. A Special Forces "A" team has begun construction of a CIDG training site at the village of Cong Sum, Phu Yen Province. Facilities of the camp will be used to train Republican Youth as hamlet defenders. During VC probing actions aimed at slowing down construction of the camp, one hand grenade was thrown into the camp on 1 July. However, no casualties have been reported.

f. Since the establishment of the Hoa Cam training camp on 9 January 1962, 3,445 persons have completed training. As of 24 July, an additional 1,137 personnel are in training. These include two trailwatcher companies totaling 360 persons; civic action group, 221; Force Populaire contingent, 417; scout company, 139.

g. At the Du Tho (Soc Trang) training camp a camp security and strike force of three companies consisting of 182 men each has been approved by appropriate GVN authorities. One company is presently in training; a second being assembled; and a third, which is to be made up of Catholic youth, is being recruited.

h. A total of 28,318 patients were treated by all CIDG installations during the month of July. Participating in the program, in addition to Special Forces medical personnel, are 54 indigenous medical personnel who have completed training and 30 additional who are presently undergoing training.

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2.

a. As of 31 July, each province in central Vietnam had at least one full company of Force Populaire, which was either in training or had finished training and operative in the villages. A total Force Populaire complement of 4,625, which was approved by President Diem during the month of July, will permit the establishment of four companies consisting of 500 men in each of the nine coastal provinces as well as one company for the autonomous city of Danang. As of 26 July, Ngo Dinh Can has been expecting the Presidential decree which will allocate Self-Defense Corps (SDC) funds for the Force Populaire in the high plateau provinces. This decree would result in an increase of 1,938 men to the Force Populaire.

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B. Covert Intelligence

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[REDACTED] reported extensively on the number of non-communist oppositionists picked up for questioning. Most of them were released after a short time. It is believed that the interrogations were the GVN's method of keeping oppositionists off balance and as a means of warning them not to engage in anti-regime plotting.

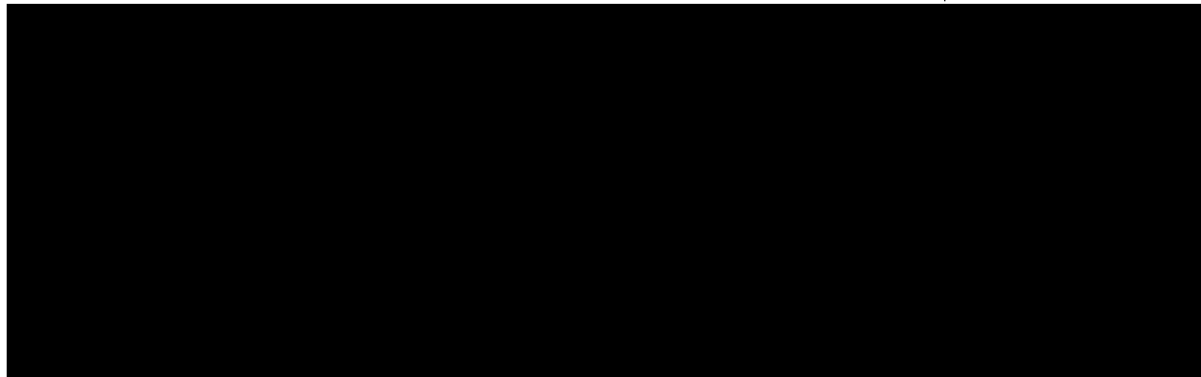
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II. SOUTH LAOS

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III. NORTH VIETNAM

No report.

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